

ABSTRACT

A data communication apparatus which allows a file to be shared among a plurality of personal computers (hereinafter referred to as "PC") without using a file server, a Web server, or the like. According to the data communication apparatus, a inquiry executing section 6 on PC#1 (2) makes an inquiry to each of other PCs #2 to #n whether or not a file matching a specific keyword is stored in the shared files 30 stored in themselves. A search executing section 7 on each of the other PCs#2 to #n searches an index file 4 to search the file. The search executing section 7 returns a search result to PC#1. A search result receiving section 8 on PC#1 receives the search result. A file transmission requesting section 9 on PC#1 requests one of the other PCs to transmit a given file among files shown in search results received. A file receiving section 11 on PC#1 receives the given file transmitted from a file transmitting section 10 on the PC requested to transmit the given file.